

South Carolina Department of Social Services
SAFETY PLAN

Page ____ of ____

Name: _____ Case Number: _____

DSS has identified the following concerns as placing your child or children at serious risk of harm. The undersigned have developed this plan for the purpose of preventing removal of the child to foster care or as a plan to control safety concerns during the investigation. The parties enter into this agreement voluntarily. The parents' agreement to this plan is not an admission that they have abused or neglected the child.

If YES is checked, DSS has determined that if the preventive services are not provided or are not effective, foster care will be the plan for the child.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Safety Concern:	
Preventive Service: (Include specific action, who will be responsible and who will monitor)	
Safety Concern:	
Preventive Service: (Include specific action, who will be responsible and who will monitor)	
Safety Concern:	
Preventive Service: (Include specific action, who will be responsible and who will monitor)	

By signing this Safety Plan, the parents and the protector understand and agree that the protector will be responsible for the safety of the child(ren) during the investigation. This agreement will expire in 90 days from date of signature. The parents and protector have the right to and agree to contact the caseworker if they no longer wish to carry out any part of the agreement, have questions, or want to bring something to the worker's attention. If the report is unfounded, the Safety Plan will end automatically on the date of case decision.

Protector's Signature/Relationship to Child	Date	Worker's Signature	Date
Parent's Signature	Date	Parent's Signature	Date

☐ Parent(s)/Caregiver refused to sign
Note: Failure to comply with the Safety Plan may result in court intervention to assure the child's safety.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR DSS FORM 3087

Purpose

1. To identify for the parents, other individuals and agencies, those behaviors and situations that compromise the safety of the child.
2. To document specifically any high/imminent risk of removal situation and the services put into place to prevent the removal. These are situations where the child is assessed to be in present or imminent danger of serious harm but a plan can be devised to ensure that a protective adult is available so removal is not necessary. The services must modify the danger to the degree that the child can be maintained safely out of foster care. If we cannot do this, the child must come into foster care.

Note: If child is determined to be at high/imminent risk of removal absent these services (a “candidate” for IV-E foster care), the case must be staffed every three months until risk is reduced and every six months thereafter. A re-assessment of the child’s safety must be made at the three month staffing to determine if the child continues to be at imminent risk of removal and what steps the agency is taking to address these continuing concerns. Documentation must clearly show this assessment and the determination in order to document IV-E eligibility.

3. To specifically identify by name the Protective Adult(s) who will be responsible for preserving the safety of the child(ren) and enacting the Safety Plan. A Protective Adult has been assessed to have the physical, intellectual and emotional strengths and resources to place the protection of the child as their first responsibility. CFASP Part One, section B – Assessing Protective Capacity of Adults guides this assessment and provides the documentation.
4. To document and clearly communicate the specific agreement between the Department and the Protective Adult already in the home regarding the detailed actions (services to prevent removal including time frames and the individuals to be involved) to be taken to modify/control the behaviors or situations creating the unsafe condition for the children. These specific actions can include obtaining immediate evaluations needed to further assess potential safety concerns.
5. To provide notice to the parents and other adults in the home that DSS and the family will review the safety plan at regular intervals to determine if other actions are necessary or if the plan should terminate.
6. To inform parents and legal guardians that their signature or compliance with the Safety Plan does not mean that they are agreeing that the children have been abused or neglected as defined by state statute.
7. To inform parents and DSS that the agreement will expire in 90 days from date of signatures. If investigation is unfounded, the agreement will end automatically.

A Safety Plan is not a Treatment Plan. It is a short term plan developed on limited information put in place to control immediate safety threats while there is further assessment of the allegations and the risk issues affecting the children’s care. New information may justify revision or cancellation of the safety plan, including substitution of a less stringent plan or taking action to place the children outside of the home. The safety plan should terminate when the treatment plan is developed and implemented. The treatment plan is designed to change the behavior that led to the child being unsafe.

General Instructions

1. The Safety Plan is for situations where a child(ren) is believed to be unsafe as assessed using the CFASP Part One, Section A – Child Safety Assessment.
2. Whenever possible, parental preferences for controlling the behaviors or situations contributing to the unsafe conditions should be permitted as long as those preferences will reduce the risk and improve the child’s safety, are readily available, available on a timely basis, and the resource is willing to cooperate with DSS.
3. A Safety Plan provision cannot modify the provisions of an existing court order. A parent may agree to a safety plan that changes how his rights established in the order are temporarily exercised. All parties should understand that the order is not altered by the agreement. If critical to the safety of the children and the affected parent will not agree, DSS can seek an Ex Parte action through family court to temporarily stay the preexisting order or a removal through the emergency protective custody process. Questions regarding existing court orders should be referred to your attorney.
4. If the child is of sufficient age or ability, the Safety Plan should be discussed with them.
5. The Safety Plan should be completed in triplicate as soon as possible, but no later than five days from the first successful contact with a member of the family group.
6. Distribution: A copy for the parent/legal guardian, a copy to the identified protective adult, and the original for DSS records. Other copies may be made as needed for other agencies, services providers or individuals who are directly involved in the safety plan.
7. The Safety Plan must be monitored directly and indirectly through contact with the protective adult, the child and other involved agencies and service providers.
8. If a Safety Plan is revised, depending upon the amount of revision, a new plan can be written or the affected portion of the original plan struck through and the new language written on the original document. A revised Safety Plan requires new signatures and redistribution of the three copies outlined in Item 6 above.
9. Any agreements for a child to be placed with an alternative caregiver through a safety plan must be resolved prior to termination of the Safety Plan or the matter brought before Family Court for oversight and approval of the Treatment Plan.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR DSS FORM 3087 continued

Form Completion

1. Enter the name of the head of household.
2. Enter the CAPSS Family ID Number, if known.
3. Check if this is a high risk or removal situation or not.
4. Safety threat: Describe the specific behavior or unsafe condition which compromises the safety of the children and which must be modified or controlled.
5. Preventive Service: Identify the individuals involved and the specific actions and time frames that must be taken for each identified safety threat. It is possible for a single preventive service to control several safety threats.
6. Obtain the necessary original signatures.
7. Check if the parents/legal guardians refuse to sign.

Documentation in CAPSS

Document in the case dictation all actions regarding the development, implementation, revision and monitoring of the Safety Plan, minimally including, the date that the Safety Plan was developed or revised, a brief summary of the safety threats placing the children in present or imminent danger or in impending threat of harm, the services needed to prevent placement, the name of the identified protective adult and the factual justification supporting their selection, issues around refusal to sign, if any, and specifically to whom copies were distributed.